THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The TRAI is making an exercise related to efficient utilization of spectrum, its pricing and allocation procedure for Indian Telecom and IT market.

Deadline for providing villages telephones

†978. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that December, 2002 was fixed as deadline by Government to achieve the target for providing telephones in all the villages of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a condition to this effect was placed while giving licene for the telecom circle to the operators that the private operators would cover 60,000 villages;

(c) whether it is also a fact that private companies have been violating the instructions issued by Government time to time with regard to laying of telephone cables in the villages; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government to see that the private operators follow the instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six Basic Private Service Operators committed to provide 97806 Village Public Telephones as per the licence conditions signed in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Private Basic Service Operators could not fulfill the roll out conditions for providing village public telephones. The liquidated damages of Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered from these private basic operators for not fulfilling the roll out conditions and commencing services in time. Further these private basic service

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

operators have not migrated to Unified Access Service Licence Regime wherein roll out obligations are stipulated in terms and coverage of 50% of District Headquarters or any town in lieu of.

Security threat due to expansion of communication network

979. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expanding communication networks with a range of handsets, ATMs, wireless sets and other electronic devices has made security a concern for everyone;

(b) whether the more wireless and other networks expand, the greater is the threat to humanize, according to security experts who have concluded a conference in New Delhi in August, 2003; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard so that threat to life on account of wireless handsets is minimal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Loss due to Internet

†980. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports captioned, "Internet se desh ko 2000 crore rupaye ka nuksan";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the internet services lack in the indicating words of 'Dot in' which is to be suffixed after the name of websites resulting in the loss to the tune of Rs. 2000 crore every year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.